



Dear DSE Families,

Beginning January 1, 2026, all Ohio schools are required by House Bill 96 to adopt a new cell phone policy. This law states that students may **not use cell phones on school property during the instructional day**. The goal of this policy is to reduce distractions, increase student engagement, and support a more focused and productive learning environment.

There are only two exceptions:

1. Emergency situations, as outlined in the school's emergency management plan, and
2. Students whose IEP or 504 Plan specifically requires the use of a cell phone for learning or for monitoring a documented health need.

Outside of these exceptions, students will be expected to keep their cell phones put away throughout the school day. Parents can view the full policy below for additional details about how this requirement will be implemented.

Thank you for your cooperation as we work together to create a safer, more focused learning environment for all students.

Policy 234.1 Student Cellular Phones in School

To support a school environment in which students can fully engage with their classmates, their teachers, and instruction, the use of cell phones by students on school property during school hours is prohibited.

Nothing in this policy prohibits a student from using a cell phone as documented in the student's individualized education program or Section 504 plan for a learning purposes or to monitor or address a health concern.

In the case of an emergency, cellular telephones may be used at the discretion of School administration as permitted by the School's emergency management plan.

Students determined to be in violation of this policy may be subject to discipline consistent with the Student Code of Conduct. A copy of this policy shall be posted prominently on its website, and shall be available upon request.